

STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGY.

No. VIII.—DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW TIGER BEETLES.

By THOMAS G. SLOANE.

MEGACEPHALA SPENCERI, n.sp.

Robust, oval, cylindrical. Elytra with a submarginal row of widely placed punctures on each elytron. Upper surface metallic; elytra violaceous, inflexed margin piceous-black; prothorax black in middle of upper surface (some green intermingled with the black on the disc), sides purple shading to green on sides of disc; head green, becoming black on middle of occiput and vertex; labrum piceous-brown; mandibles testaceous, inner margin and apex piceous; gula purple; mentum piceous; prosternum bluish; episterna greenish; sides of body greenish, tending to blue on mesosternal episterna; mesosternum, metasternum and posterior trochanters piceous; ventral segments black in middle, three basal segments green laterally, fourth with a slight greenish tinge towards sides, fifth black, apical segment black at base and testaceous at apex; legs, palpi and antennæ pale testaceous; trochanters light brown.

Head large, wider across eyes than prothorax, wide between eyes, lightly longitudinally wrinkled near eyes; clypeal suture distinct; eyes large, prominent, hemispherical. Prothorax convex, a little broader than long (5×5.5 mm.), widest about middle, a little narrowed to base; anterior margin lightly sinuate on each side; sides lightly rounded; base sinuate (the middle roundly produced backwards), bordered on each side at basal angles, these rounded; median line well marked between anterior and posterior transverse impressions; anterior transverse impressions sinuate, very strongly impressed on each side, strongly marked and arcuate in middle; posterior transverse impression very strongly impressed.

Elytra oval (12×7 mm.), convex, widest behind middle, widely rounded at apex; whole surface punctate; punctures small but deeply impressed on basal half, becoming more and more minute towards apex (obsolete at apex itself); three large punctures in a row on each side of suture, near base; a row of seven or eight rather strong widely placed punctures about one and one-half millimètre from suture extending to about apical third; two well marked small punctures in a line on apical third behind and a little more distant from suture than the row of seven or eight; a submarginal row of widely and unevenly placed punctures extending from shoulders to apex, a row of closely placed fine punctures along margin of sides. Length 21, breadth 7 mm.

Hab.—Murchison River, West Australia (Coll. French).

This handsome species is allied to *M. cylindrica*, Macl., but differs by its broader and less cylindrical shape, by the absence of the foveiform puncturation on the basal part of the elytra, &c. The elytra are wholly of a metallic blue colour with purple reflections in changing light; the puncturation is close and without order; the punctures are small and impressed in the smooth surface of the elytra (there being no raised interstices or rugosity on any part); they are coarser towards the suture than towards the sides and become very small a little before the middle; behind the apical third they can only be seen with a lens and at the apex itself become obsolete.

TETRACHIA EXCISILATERA n.sp.

♀. Robust, oval, convex. Elytra widely oval, coarsely punctate on basal half of disc; a subsutural row of widely placed punctures on each elytron; inflexed margin with a strong short emargination opposite third ventral segment. Head green, becoming black in middle of upper surface; mentum brown; prothorax (including under surface) green, becoming black along middle of upper surface; elytra piceous-black tinged with green on punctate basal part, a yellow margin from humeral angles to apex, this margin triangularly dilatate and reaching about half way to suture at anterior third; legs, antennæ, palpi, labrum, and mandibles (excepting apex) pale testaceous; edge of labrum, teeth

of mandibles, upper side of joints 2-4 of antennæ and apex of posterior femora infusate; subsutural row of punctures green at bottom; sides of body and of first three ventral segments green; apical ventral segment and sides of fourth and fifth testaceous.

Head large, feebly bifoveolate between eyes. Prothorax broader than long (3.3×4 mm.), widest at anterior transverse impression, a little narrowed to base, convex between anterior and posterior transverse impressions; these impressions strongly marked; anterior margin deeply and widely sinuate on each side. Elytra much wider than prothorax (8.5×6.2 mm.), rounded on sides, narrowed to base, very widely and obtusely rounded at apex; each elytron widely subdepressed posteriorly on lateral parts of disc; punctate basal part oval, not extending along suture as far as middle of length; the dilatation of the lateral yellow margin hardly punctate; all the elytra behind this dilatation lævigata, subopaque; a row of widely placed fine punctures along margin; marginal channel punctate and greenish-black for a short distance behind shoulders; lateral border lightly arcuate at notch in inflexed margin. Length 12-14, length $5.5-6.2$ mm.

Hab.—Barrow Creek, Northern Territory of South Australia (Overland Telegraph Line).

Closely allied to *T. basalis*, Macl., but differing by the elytra having the yellow marginal portion much less widely dilatate behind the shoulders, the punctate basal area smaller (the puncturation near the base not extending to the posterior part of the posthumeral dilatation of the yellow margin as it does in *T. basalis*), the lateral channel with a dark blue reflection behind shoulders, the inflexed margin with a deep emargination opposite third ventral segment, the apical ventral segment alone wholly testaceous (the fourth and fifth being testaceous only near the margins).

Sent to me by Mr. C. French, Government Entomologist for Victoria, as coming from Barrow Creek. I have compared specimens with *T. basalis*, Macl., and found the differences indicated above, which seem to me of specific value.